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BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1925.

And

Printed

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THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.



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Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Burnham-on-Crouch Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1925, on lines prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	4517
Estimated Population (1925)	3429
Census Population (1921)	3406
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	884
Number of Families or separate occupiers (1921)	900
Rateable Value	£14,474 15s.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£45 11s. 8d.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physically the district is flat, in a large part marshy, and is sparsely wooded. Bounded on the S. and S.E. by the River Crouch, that part which adjoins the river practically throughout its whole extent, and for a considerable distance inland, lies below the level of high water mark, and is protected from the salt water by artificially-constructed sea walls. The soil consists of gravel and sand overlying London clay.

The Mildmay Ironworks (Messrs. Booth and Brookes, Ltd.) now give occupation to the greatest number of workmen. Many others are employed as yacht hands and a few at oyster dredging, while those workers in the out-lying parts of the town are engaged in agriculture. Several boat building yards also find employment for a considerable number of men.

The climate is bracing and dry, and the prevailing wind is W.S.W.

RAINFALL.

The following statement shows the rainfall at Burnham for each month in the three last years.

	1925.		1924.		1923.
January ...	1.21	...	2.31	...	1.20
February ...	1.99	...	.51	...	2.63
March ...	.87	...	.80	...	1.58
April ...	1.42	...	2.50	...	.97
May ...	2.04	...	2.74	...	1.44
June ...	.37	...	1.87	...	.53
July ...	1.79	...	2.79	...	.94
August ...	2.26	...	.79	...	1.84
September	2.22	...	1.94	...	1.12
October ...	2.03	...	3.67	...	4.33
November	1.77	...	3.16	...	2.47
December	2.44	...	2.48	...	1.96
	<hr/> 20.41		<hr/> 25.56		<hr/> 21.01

The following statement gives the total at Burnham for each of the past 14 years :—

1912 ...	22.08	1919 ...	23.60
1913 ...	21.39	1920 ...	23.13
1914 ...	23.99	1921 ...	9.98
1915 ...	29.05	1922 ...	20.74
1916 ...	26.59	1923 ...	21.01
1917 ...	22.66	1924 ...	25.56
1918 ...	22.78	1925 ...	20.41

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers and streams of the district are :—(1) The river Crouch, tidal salt water, running along the southern boundary of the district. (2) The Brook, a small stream running across the district in an easterly direction and emptying into the river at the "Pile House."

The river receives a certain amount of pollution from yachts but no harm appears to result.

The old part of the Town is on or near the waterside. The more modern part, including Stoney Hills, is to the north, lying near and on both sides of the railway station.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

In reference to the above, Burnham is a sub district of the Maldon Union, whose Board of Guardians administer Poor Law benefits.

HOSPITAL RELIEF.

The Chelmsford Hospital, and, in very serious cases, the larger London hospitals are chiefly utilised for gratuitous medical relief.

There are no industries in the Town prejudicial to public health.

EXTACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Number of Births in Burnham for 1925 (Male, 25 ; Female, 24)	49
Birth Rate in Burnham for 1925 (per 1000)	14·28
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1925	18·8
Number of Deaths in Burnham for 1925	50
Death Rate in Burnham for 1925 (per 1000)	14·28
Death Rate for England and Wales	12·2
Births (illegitimate included in above)	1
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth	0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	0
Deaths Rate of Infants per 1000 Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years)	0

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1925.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	20	29
1 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	0	1
2 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	0	1
3 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	0	1
4 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	5	6
5 Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1
6 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	1	2
7 Heart disease	...	...	...	3	5
8 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	1	0
9 Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	0
10 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	2
11 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	0	1
12 Suicide	...	...	...	1	0
13 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	5	9
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	25	24
Legitimate	...	...	...	24	24
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	0
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	3429

TABLE OF DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES during 1925.

Age.				No. of Deaths.		
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	0
1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	0
2 years and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	0
5 "	"	15 "	...	...	...	2
15 "	"	25 "	...	...	...	4
25 "	"	45 "	...	...	...	2
45 "	"	65 "	...	...	...	16
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	26
Total				...	...	50

Stillbirths during 1925.

Number notified by Midwives	...	...	0
" " " Doctors or Parents	...	...	5
Total	...	...	5

It is to be observed that 26 deaths took place in persons over the age of 65 years, or over 50 per cent of the whole number.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1925.

	Small-pox.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric fever.	Puerperal fever.	Erysipelas.	
Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.	—	...	1	...	—	...	1

The General Health of the Town during 1925 was exceptionally good, as the above statistics will go far to prove.

HOSPITALS.

The town has an **Infectious Hospital**, capable of receiving 20 patients, situated in the Maldon Road, supported entirely by the Council. The Hospital has not been opened since 1912 for the reception of patients.

Hospitals for the reception of general cases have already been referred to.

In the event of **Small Pox** appearing in the town, the arrangements are to have the patients at once removed to a tent, to be erected on the marshes, pending their removal to a small pox hospital. Efforts have been made to induce the Joint Hospital Boards at Orsett, Maldon and Chelmsford to come to arrangements by which any small pox cases showing themselves in the town could be received by the respective boards; but all our efforts have been in vain, and the Clerk wrote to the County Council suggesting that they should build a Central Hospital for the purpose. Nothing further has, however, been heard of the matter.

Ambulance Facilities.—For the removal of infectious cases there is a special brougham kept ready and provided by the Council.

An Ambulance, purchased from the Metropolitan Police, is in use for non-infectious cases and accidents. Also a Motor Ambulance can be hired from Tillingham (7 miles distant), or from Chelmsford (Red Cross).

There is a voluntary Nursing Association, helped by the County, which supplies a Nurse for the town for general purposes but not for infectious cases. Cases of measles are nursed at home by the parents. The Nurse attends daily at a **Maternity and Child Welfare Centre** held at her house. She acts as assistant to Miss Waterhouse, who is the Health Visitor for this district, and who visits the town about once a fortnight.

There are no **mid-wives** in the town.

Venereal cases are treated at Chelmsford when application is made.

There is no **Day Nursery**.

There is a **Tuberculosis Dispensary** at Maldon (12 miles), where patients can attend twice a month.

School Clinics are held by the Educational Authorities.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer, the Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor, and an odd man when required.

A contribution is made by the County Council towards the salaries of the M.O.H. and the Sanitary inspector.

CHEMICAL WORK.

All Bacteriological Specimens for Examination, Samples of Drinking Water, etc., are sent away and paid for by the Council.

The M.O.H. always keeps a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin ready at hand, which is provided by the Sanitary Authority for the use of the doctors.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Bye-Laws are in force relating to New Streets and Buildings and Slaughter-Houses, and Regulations with reference to Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.

WATER.

The town is supplied with water by public service, the water-works being situate on high ground near the church. There are two sources of supply :—(1) A surface supply drawn from tube-wells of depths varying from 20—30 ft. (2) A deep supply from a bored well some 700 feet. The supply is abundant, as a rule some 1,200,000 gallons being pumped per month. The service is from 6.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. daily, and at holiday times a constant supply is given.

Both waters are certified as pure and wholesome and are analysed twice yearly.

97 per cent of the houses are supplied from the works.

The possibilities of contamination are practically nil.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

This subject has already been referred to on page 4.

SEWERAGE.

Sewage is treated by means of coke breeze bacteria beds. These continue to work well and give a very satisfactory effluent. Their capacity is, however, by no means too great.

Several houses near the Church, until recently having Cess-pools, have been linked with the main scheme.

The effluent after leaving the works enters the river at the sluice, being largely diluted before doing so, and enters in a satisfactory state.

It is contemplated in the near future to lay down a new sewerage system for the whole town, in which practically every house will be linked up ; indeed this system would have been completed by now if it had not been for the late war. The sewage disposal works will then necessarily be reconstructed and materially enlarged.

CESS-POOLS.

There are now only about 50 in the area, as some 14 have recently been linked up. They are fairly regularly emptied each week. They will all be joined up under the new scheme. They are all now in the outlying parts of the district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 701 water closets with flushing cisterns and 122 without. There are also some 34 pail closets, which are emptied once or twice weekly, the contents being removed to land away from the town. A very desirable improvement in the method of dealing with these closets would be the substitution of a clean empty pail for the one removed, so that pails and contents could be removed entire and the pails thoroughly cleansed ready to replace the ones next removed. This would entail the provision of a duplicate set of pails, but the gain, from a sanitary point of view, would more than compensate for their cost. For further particulars see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SCAVENGING.

This is done by Contract. Movable ashbins, with proper covering, which are the rule here, being emptied weekly.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector and is dealt with in his classified statement at the end of this Report.

There is no smoke nuisance in the Town. There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades.

SCHOOLS.

There are two public elementary Schools. The sanitary conditions of both are satisfactory. The water supply to both Schools is adequate. In cases of infectious disease, the rooms in which such cases have been detected are sprayed with formaldehyde solution, together with their occupants. All suspicious cases and contacts have been kept from school, and as far as possible, under observation. The medical inspection of school children is in the hands of a Medical Inspector appointed by the County Council. The M.O.H. also makes frequent visits to the Schools as required.

HOUSING.

The general housing conditions are satisfactory on the whole and there is now no shortage or excess of houses.

There is no **overcrowding** in the district.

The general **fitness of houses** is on the whole satisfactory. A fair number are wooden, but the majority are made of brick. Slight dampness and unsound roofs are the principal defects, especially in the older ones, and are as often due to the tenants not complaining, as to the want of supervision by the Owners. Where complaints (which are very few in number) are made to the Sanitary Authority action is at once taken.

There are no **Unhealthy Areas** in the Town.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

- (a) Total, 17 (including those under the following heading).
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—
 - (i.) By the Local Authority 0
 - (ii.) By other Bodies or Persons 16

1. Unfit dwelling-houses : Inspection—	
(1) Total number of houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	105
(2) Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	275
(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0
2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices : Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
3. Action under Statutory Powers :	
(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners... ..	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
(2) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of houses in which Demolition Orders were made... ..	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The milk produced within or brought into this area is quite wholesome. The supply is adequate as are also the arrangements for the supply and distribution. About 220 milch cows are available in the area.

It has not been necessary to have samples bacteriologically examined.

No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under the Special Designations Order, 1923.

MEAT. PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

These Regulations came into operation on 1st April, 1925. Under the order, Butchers have to forward notices to the Medical Officer of Health, who is at present carrying out the Regulations.

The meat is inspected at the time or shortly after slaughter. The butchers are doing their best to make the arrangements work smoothly. No carcasses have been condemned. The shops and stores are regularly visited. There are no stalls or vehicles for the sale of meat and no public slaughter houses.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

		In 1920.		In Jan., 1925.		In Dec., 1925.
Registered	...	3	...	3	...	3
Licensed	...	1	...	1	...	1
		—		—		—
Total	...	4	...	4	...	4

OTHER FOODS.

The Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector frequently visit the shops of the vendors of all other foods. (For other information see Sanitary Inspector's report).

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Action is taken under this heading when necessary. One such case was met with last year.

The Council is the Local Authority under the **Milk and Cream Regulations**, and all dairies, cowsheds and milk shops are registered and inspected. All other information under this heading will be found under the "Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector" at the end of this Report.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises	Number of				
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	10	...	1	...	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	50	...	0	...	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	0	...	0	...	0
	—		—		—
Total	60	...	1	...	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	0	0
Want of ventilation ...	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding ...	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors ...	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances ...	0	0	0	0
Sanitary accommodation	insufficient ...	0	0	0
	unsuitable or defective ...	0	0	0
	not separate for sexes ...	1	1	0
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	0	0	0	0
Other offences ...	0	0	0	0
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ...	2	2	0	0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Number of cases notified.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever	23	2	4	3	1
Diphtheria ...	14	5	2	0	0
Pneumonia ..	2	4	0	1	1

These three were the principal diseases prevailing, and only slightly so, during the last five years. There were also three cases of Enteric Fever and one of Encephalitis lethargica (ended fatally). There were no cases of Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The several doctors send their bacteriological specimens to the County Offices at the expense of the local authority.

The M.O.H. always keeps a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin ready at hand, which is provided by the Sanitary Authority for the use of the doctors.

No Schick or Dick tests were made and there were no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations made by the M.O.H. under the Small Pox Regulations 1917.

A few cases of Measles and Chicken Pox took place amongst School Children. These were always notified to the M.O.H. by the School Teachers.

During the last five years there have been four deaths from Influenza. The cases recently were all of a mild type.

The premises and articles are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector under the instructions of the M.O.H.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

		Cases Notified.		Admitted to Hospital		Deaths.
Small Pox	...	0	...	0	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	0	...	0
Diphtheria	...	0	...	0	...	0
Enteric Fever	...	1	...	0	...	0
Puerperal Fever	...	0	...	0	...	0
Pneumonia	...	1	...	0	...	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.		New Cases.						Deaths.				
		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.				
		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.
0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
1	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
5	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
10	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
15	...	1	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
20	...	1	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
25	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
30	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
35	...	1	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
45	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
55	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
65	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
Total		3	0	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0

There are no tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The parish Nurse in our area works in this interest under my supervision and reports to me from time to time. The work is carried out in a most satisfactory manner. The Nurse attends at her house daily for one hour to give advice to expectant and nursing mothers. Few, however, take advantage of her advice and services.

Maternal mortality here is nil. Milk has been supplied in suitable cases.

There is practically no Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the district, nor has there been any, except one of the latter class, for a considerable number of years.

I append a statement of work done by the Sanitary Inspector during the last year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June 16th, 1926.

SUMMARY OF WORK done through the Sanitary Inspector in
the Urban Sanitary District of Burnham-on-Crouch, during the year
ending December 31st, 1925.

				Total No. for Year.
1	Complaints received	...	...	6
2	Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	10
3	Nuisances abated	...	...	16
4	Nuisances remaining unabated	...	...	0
5	Formal notices served	...	...	5
6	Summonses taken out	...	...	0
7	Convictions obtained	...	...	0
8	Lodging houses inspected	...	...	0
9	Slaughter houses inspected	...	...	4 quarterly
10	Bakehouses inspected	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -year
11	Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	...	...	9 quarterly
12	Cowsheds inspected	...	...	6 quarterly
13	No. of samples of Milk taken for examination for cleanliness, etc.	...	...	0
14	Filthy Houses cleansed, Sec. 46, P.H. Act, 1875	...	...	0
15	Houses disinfected	...	...	3
16	Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	0
17	Houses erected	...	...	17
18	"Certificates" granted	...	...	0
19	„ deferred	...	...	0
20	Public Wells, total number in district	...	...	0
21	New Public Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	...	...	0
22	Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	0
23	Wells closed	...	...	0
24	Privies, number in district	...	...	0
25	„ number abolished during the year	...	...	0
26	Pail Closets, number in district	...	...	34
27	Water Closets, number in district without flushing cisterns	...	...	122
28	Water Closets with flushing cisterns	...	...	701
29	Privies and W.C.'s repaired ; W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	0
30	Water Cisterns cleansed, repaired or covered	...	...	0
31	Animals improperly kept, removed	...	...	0
32	Samples of Water taken for analysis	...	...	0
33	Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	...	...	0
34	Seizures of unsound Meat, etc.	...	...	0

(Signed), J. COOK,

Sanitary Inspector.

